

item of expenditure, should this system be carried to its desirable extent, in a population of more than twelve thousand children, between the ages of four and fourteen; who either are, or ought to be, under a course of instruction. And the improvement which may, and most certainly will be, introduced, through the instrumentality of suitable rooms for much larger Schools, and a more thorough practical acquaintance with the mode of discipline and instruction, will reduce this ratio of expenditure a third or a half.

On the subject of furnishing Books and Stationery for the Schools now in operation, or hereafter to be established, it would be satisfactory to the Commissioners to have the will of the Council distinctly expressed. And they here take the liberty of suggesting the propriety of empowering the Board of Commissioners to prescribe the Books to be used, as well as the course of studies to be pursued, that all may be alike uniform; and of making it the duty of the parent or guardian to provide his child with such books, as a pre-requisite to his entering the School, and as necessary to his continuance in it; unless in cases where, from the circumstances of the party, the Board may deem it proper to interpose relief, by furnishing them from the public fund.

Before proceeding, as directed by the ordinance, to make estimates of the probable expenditures for the ensuing year, the Board will take the liberty of suggesting to the Council, as previously intimated, the benefits which in their view would result from arranging the Schools into two distinct classes. In doing this, they would place all the children, male and female, from four to seven or eight years old, who choose to avail themselves of the advantages thus presented, in Primary Schools, under the instruction of competent female teachers; in which the price of tuition might, in the discretion of the Board, be somewhat reduced. These would be more efficient in communicating instruction to children of this tender age, than even the best masters; while, at the same time, the saving of expense would be very great, as the services of females may be had for a far less compensation than those of suitable masters. Nor would this be the only, or the principal, advantage to be derived from this arrangement. The children going from these schools, at the age mentioned above, instructed in reading, spelling, arithmetical tables, &c. would enter the next grade, or Grammar Schools, under the instruction of a master, prepared for classification in such a manner, as greatly to facilitate the operations of the instructor. With such a classification, he will accomplish readily far more than is possible under the present arrangement, embarrassed as it is with the multiplicity of classes, necessarily required by the various condition of improvement found among the pupils; and the undue proportion of time required for the instruction of the lower grades.

Should the foregoing suggestions meet the approbation of the Council, this Board would recommend such a modification of the ordinance, as will prevent the introduction into the schools of the second grade